

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 110173

15

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SAB-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CG-00 DOTE-00 /056 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:PFMORRIS:JVC

APPROVED BY USOAS:FMCNEIL

S/AB:AMB. BUNKER

S/S - JPMOFFAT

SS MR. GOMPERT

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P 122059Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A- ,

TAGS: OASGA, PFOR

SUBJECT: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY - PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

USDEL - D-4

1. PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WERE TAKEN UP AT
OASGA CLOSED SESSION MAY 10.

2. DISCUSSIONS OPENED WITH A STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF
STATE KISSINGER BRIEFLY SUMMARIZING THE STATUS OF NEGO-
TIATIONS, REITERATING U.S. COMMITMENT TO THEM, RECOGNIZING
THEIR IMPORTANCE TO THE HEMISPHERE AS A WHOLE AND
EXPRESSING HIS AND THE PRESIDENT'S PLEASURE AT THE PRO-
GRESS ACHIEVED. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS A DOMESTIC PROBLEM
IN THE UNITED STATES, THAT A TREATY COULD BE THWARTED BY
ONE VOTE MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE SENATE. HE ACKNOW-
LEDGED PANAMA'S PATIENCE AND COOPERATION INDICATING THAT
NEGOTIATION WAS CAREFUL AND METHODICAL BECAUSE THE TWO
COUNTRIES WERE CREATING A WHOLE NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
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TWO SOCIETIES. HE THEN READ A BRIEF JOINT REPORT ON THE

STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS PREPARED EARLIER BY PANAMA AND THE U.S. (STATEMENT TRANSMITTED BY USIA-DTS MAY 11).

3. SECRETARY WAS FOLLOWED BY PANAMA'S OAS AMBASSADOR PITY (IN ABSENCE OF PANAMA FOREIGN MINISTER TACK). PITY SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME OAS HAD DISPLAYED OFFICIAL AWARENESS OF PANAMA PROBLEM SUBSEQUENT TO RESOLUTION OF APRIL 1964 NOTING CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH GAVE RISE TO IT. HE NOTED

FORBEARANCE, PATIENCE AND MATURITY OF PANAMANIAN PEOPLE WAITING ELEVEN YEARS FOR ACTION AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS WOULD SEE PROGRESS AND PRODUCE DOCUMENTS WHICH GIVE EXPRESSION TO PANAMANIAN ASPIRATIONS. HE THEN ENDORSED THE JOINT STATEMENT READ BY THE SECRETARY AND CALLED FOR A PROMPT SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

4. COSTA RICA INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION WHICH TOOK NOTE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION OF U.S. AND PANAMA SUBMITTED TO THE OAS IN 1964 AND THE JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES SIGNED IN PANAMA ON FEBURARY 7, 1974 AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARRIVE AT A PROMPT CONCLUSION WHICH IS JUST AND EQUITABLE AND ELIMINATES THE CAUSES OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE ASSEMBLY AT THE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATION REPORTED BY THE TWO PARTIES.

5. ALL OF THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BARBADOS AND HAITI SPOKE, REGISTERING THEIR APPROVAL OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE AND NOTING NEED FOR PROMPT CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. FYI: THE U.S. HAD SEEN AND APPROVED A COPY OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION BEFORE IT WAS SUBMITTED. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, SPEECHES, NEGOTIATIONS, PANAMA TREATY, INTERNATIONAL CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE110173
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PFMORRIS:JVC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750165-0928
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750560/aaaacciy.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY - PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS USDEL - D-4
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, PN, US, OAS, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: ALL POSTS USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006